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Resolution 1967-15-21 Protection for Coastal Marshes and Estuaries

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 14

EXTENSION OF ACCELERATED WETLANDS ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Whereas, Federal acquisition of land for migratory waterfowl refuges under the provisions of Public Law 87-383 of 1961 has been proceeding at a rate substantially below that necessary and provided in the law; and

Whereas, at the present rate of acquisition only about 1.1 million acres of the goal of 2.5 million acres will have been acquired when the present authorization ends on June 30, 1968; and

Whereas, drainage of wetlands productive of waterfowl is proceeding apace with the price of lands to be purchased steadily rising at the rate of about 5 percent per year; and

Whereas, the Congress will, by 1968 have appropriated only about 46 million dollars of the 105 million dollars authorized for advance to be repaid from the sale of Migratory Waterfowl Stamps; and

Whereas, bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Congress that would extend for eight years the seven year program of P.L. 87-383 and give to the Congress an opportunity to appropriate the remaining monies authorized to complete the original purchase program;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly supports H.R. 480 and S. 1078 which would extend for eight years the provisions of Public Law 87-383 for the acquisition of wetlands for migratory waterfowl refuges.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

PROTECTION FOR COASTAL MARSHES AND ESTUARIES

Whereas, dredging and filling coastal marshes and estuaries of this Nation are becoming more efficient operations and are accelerating so rapidly that they threaten to destroy these highly productive, unique aquatic areas within the present generation of Americans; and

Whereas, about 65 percent of all United States commercial finfish and shellfish, most marine sport fish, and a high preponderance of migratory birds depend upon the estuarine environment for survival; and

Whereas, ecological planning and investigation are required to guide man's activities within the estuarine environment, and associated watersheds and river basins, to protect the important food, recreational, and esthetic values of national significance:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to enact the modified version of H.R. 25 as submitted by the Department of the Interior on August 2, 1967 which provides for a study and report to the Congress in 1971 on the status of estuaries and recommendations for the future management and preservation thereof.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS

Whereas, the development of atomic plants is becoming more common, replacing hydro-power in many places; and

Whereas, atomic plants usually are built on large bodies of public water to fulfill the need for cooling; and

Whereas, many of these plants now are being built - or planned without adequate consideration being given for protection of the public's rights in adjacent navigable waters, outdoor recreation opportunities, public access to shoreline properties, the preservation of natural scenic beauty and related public values; and

Whereas, present laws generally are not adequate to require complete review of all these factors by state licensing authorities of the federal Atomic Energy Commission:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress, the legislatures of the several States, the Atomic Energy Commission and other regulatory agencies to assure protection of natural resource values during planning, construction and operation of atomic facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

INCREASING PITTMAN-ROBERTSON MONIES TO STATES

Whereas, bills have been introduced in the Congress to help increase the amount of Pittman-Robertson (P-R) monies available for federal aid to state wildlife management programs; and

Whereas, these bills would impose a manufacturer's tax of eleven (11%) percent on the component parts of ammunition and would make half of the reserves from the federal excise tax on pistols and revolvers available to the states for target ranges and firearms safety training courses:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners supports legislation providing for an eleven percent tax on the component parts of ammunition and legislation which would make half the reserves from the tax on pistols and revolvers available to the states for target ranges and firearms safety training courses.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT

Whereas, the receipts available to the Land and Water Conservation Fund have proven inadequate to meet even the highest priority needs; and

Whereas, escalating land values and many newly authorized federal, state, and local park, recreation and wildlife areas have made funding even more critical, with no respite in sight; and

Whereas, the problem of obtaining access for the public to the federal lands for re-